

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1. A method for obfuscating computer program instructions upon  
2   disassembly, the method comprising  
3                    inserting an obfuscating instruction for causing a disassembler to  
4   not disassemble one or more bytes subsequent to the obfuscating instruction; and  
5                    inserting a branch instruction to invoke execution of the one or  
6   more bytes subsequent to the obfuscating instruction.
  
- 1                   2. The method of claim 1, wherein two or more of the obfuscating  
2   instructions are used adjacently to increase the number of the one or more bytes.
  
- 1                   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the obfuscating instruction is an  
2   INT instruction.
  
- 1                   4. The method of claim 3, including the step of  
2   inserting the following code:  
3                    JMP \$+4  
4                    INT 35h
  
- 1                   5. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed  
2   manually.
  
- 1                   6. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed by a  
2   software process.
  
- 1                   7. The method of claim 6, wherein parameters are supplied to the  
2   software process, the method further comprising  
3                    supplying a parameter to the software process to specify the  
4   frequency that an obfuscating instruction is to be inserted in a predetermined program.
  
- 1                   8. The method of claim 7, wherein the frequency is specified as a  
2   number of instructions of the predetermined program between each insertion of the  
3   obfuscating instruction.

1                   9. A computer-readable media including the following instructions  
2 executable by a processor:  
3                   an obfuscating instruction for causing a disassembler to not  
4 disassemble one or more bytes subsequent to the obfuscating instruction; and  
5                   a branch instruction to invoke execution of the one or more bytes  
6 subsequent to the obfuscating instruction.

1                   10. A computer-readable media including the following  
2 instructions executable by a processor:  
3                   JMP \$+4  
4                   INT 35h

1                   11. A computer-readable media including the following  
2 instructions executable by a processor:  
3                   JMP \$+4  
4                   INT 35h  
5                   INT 20h

1                   12. An apparatus for obfuscating computer program instructions  
2 upon disassembly, the apparatus comprising  
3                   an instruction for causing a disassembler to not disassemble one or  
4 more bytes subsequent to the obfuscating instruction; and  
5                   a branch instruction to invoke execution of the one or more bytes  
6 subsequent to the obfuscating instruction.